

LB 911 represents a first attempt, a first attempt by honest, earnest, good-hearted people to arrive at further understandings as to the administration of liquor licenses. But that was 911 before it got amended. I learned that local control to a large extent had simply...the demands for local control had really snowballed in the last one year because of a few unfavorable decisions to local government by the Liquor Control Commission, and, finally, I learned from the Chairman of the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee the need for that committee to undertake a very thorough review of existing state statutes. Now, I happen to support the painstaking methodical process of review of state statutes, the application of expertise, the utilization of task forces, and the return to the Legislature of a fairly completed work product. I guarantee you that 911 as amended is not a completed work product. It is simply one attempt by a local government to, in effect, turn the balance, to turn the balance away from state authorization of licenses to local authorization and approval of licenses. It goes far too far, it goes too far too fast. At this time, it would not be appropriate for this state to put 911 as amended on our books. I think we can arrive at a better balance and a better understanding of the liquor issues if we simply allow the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee under the able direction of Senator Elroy Hefner to put together the summer task force and study, to hire the expert counsel required to get the job done. But in the meantime, we ought not to, we ought not to tip the balance the other way so dramatically as we are doing through LB 911 as amended. So will vote against advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Pappas, then Senator Lamb. May I introduce some guests of Senator Peterson please. In the north balcony, we have Mike Nolan, who is the City Administrator, and the police chief, Jim Brenneman, of Norfolk, Nebraska. Would you gentlemen please stand. Thank you for visiting us today. Senator Pappas, please.

SENATOR PAPPAS: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, if Senator Hefner would rise, and if I could ask him a question or two.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hefner, would you respond, please?

SENATOR PAPPAS: In case of an appeal, who will defend? Will the city or the political subdivision, the county attorney or the city attorney defend, or will the Liquor Commission defend? If the political subdivision denies the request and the appeal is taken to the district court, who defends who? Will the